

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below.
2. This amendment supersedes and obviates the final office action mailed 12/1/10, and, therefore, no reply to the previous action is necessary.
3. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Eric Sosenko on 11/22/10.
4. It is to be noted that the information disclosure statement filed 7/28/10 fails to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97, 1.98 and MPEP § 609 because the inventor and date have not been provided for the "other art" listed. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered as to the merits. Applicant is advised that the date of any re-submission of any item of information contained in this information disclosure statement or the submission of any missing element(s) will be the date of submission for purposes of determining compliance with the requirements based on the time of filing the statement, including all certification requirements for statements under 37 CFR 1.97(e). See MPEP § 609.05(a).

The application has been amended as follows:

- 1) Replace claim 1 with --A plug connector for fluid conduits, comprising  
a housing part with a plug socket for the fluid-tight insertion of a tubular plug-in part,

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a holding element for locking the inserted plug-in part and a fluid seal for sealing the inserted plug-in part being arranged in the plug socket,

the housing part being in two parts comprising a base part and an insert part which is connected to the base part by a first snap-action positive fit connection directly between the insert part and the base part,

the base part comprising a receiving part for the holding element, the fluid seal, and the insert part,

a joining part for the joining connection of the housing part to a fluid conduit,

a dirt seal located on a mouth side of the plug socket,

and a plug-in part received within the plug socket in a pre-locking position wherein the plug-in part is retained by engagement with the holding element and wherein a leakage path is defined within the plug connector between depressions on an outer surface of the plug-in part and inner surfaces of the insert part, the fluid seal, and the dirt seal;

the depressions being arranged in two groups on the outer circumference of the plug-in part including a first group in the region of the fluid seal and further in a second group in the region of the dirt seal, wherein an axial center distance (A) between the depressions corresponds at least approximately to an axial distance (B) between the fluid seal and the dirt seal;

the plug-in part being received within the plug socket in a sealed position after insertion of the plug-in part beyond the pre-locking position wherein the leakage path is sealed off by the fluid seal bearing on a fluid-sealing section around the

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outer circumference of the plug-in part located axially between the two groups of depressions;

and whereby means for securing against relative rotation are provided between said receiving part and said joining part in such a manner that the receiving part and the joining part can be fitted axially but are secured against rotation relative to one another.--

2) Cancel claims 8, 9, 14, and 19.

3) In claims 10, 12, and 13, in line 1 replace "claim 9" with --claim 1--.

4) In claim 12 line 2 replace "start from" with --are located at--.

5) In claim 17 line 1 replace "the holding part" with --the holding element--, and in line 2 replace "that causes the insert part" with --that causes the holding element--.

6) In the specification, paragraph [0036] line 16, replace "62 According" with --62. According--.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The claims have been found to be allowable over the prior art of record because the prior art neither teaches nor suggests the combination of features presented in claim 1 as amended above, more specifically, the combination of the features presented for the plug connector with depressions and seals arranged such that a leakage path is present in the pre-locking position.

The prior art of record neither teaches nor suggests the combination of features presented. Further, there is no motivation absent Applicant's own disclosure to modify

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the art to add these features. The prior art fails to anticipate the limitations recited in the independent claim(s) and, further fails to teach, suggest, or provide motivation for modifying the prior art as such, and there is no reasoning independent of hindsight that would have led one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the prior art to obtain Applicant's invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gwendolyn D. Fournet whose telephone number is (571)270-5740. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 7:30a-6:00p.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571)272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Gwendolyn D Fournet  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3679  
12-2-10

/James M Hewitt/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3679